

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSC-01 DRC-01

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P R 281000Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4129

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR EG SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH ASSISTANCE IN PROTECTING US INTERESTS
IN EGYPT

1. WITH AN END TO HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST APPARENTLY
IN SIGHT AND THE IMMEDIATE DANAGER TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN
EGYPT CONSIDERSABLY REDUCED, WE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE DEPART-
MENT'S ATTENTION TO THE ASSISTANCE RENDERED USINT OVER THE
PAST THREE WEEKS BY TWO OFFICIALS OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

2. UPON THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES ON OCTOBER 6, THE SPANISH
EMBASSY IN CAIRO WAS IN THE HANDS OF ONLY ONE DIPLOMATIC
OFFICER, COUNSELOR JAVIER VILLACIEROS. VILLACRIEROS NOT ONLY
ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS OWN CITIZENS, BUT UNSTINTINGLY
GAVE HIS ASSISTANCE TO USINT THROUGHOUT. IN FACT, MOST OF
HIS CONTACTS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERNED THE AFFAIRS
OF THE US GOVERNMENT--IN CONVEYING THE VIEWS OF THE GOE ON
THE CAUSES OF HOSTILITIES, OR IN SEEKING ASSURANCE FROM
THE GOE ABOUT THE PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN EGYPT.

3. WE ASLO UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN AMERICAN TOURISTS STRANDED
IN EGYPT WERE FINALLY ABLE TO LEAVE BY SHIP, THE SPANISH
CONSUL GENERAL IN ALEXANDRIA, DON NICOLAS REVENGA DOMINGUES,
MOVED WITH CONSIDERABLE SPEED AND EFFECTIVENESS TO ENSURE
THAT THEIR DEPARTURE WAS CARRIED OUT WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE
DIFFICULTY. REVENGA WAS ABLE TO PREVAIL UPON THE ALEXANDRIA
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DIRECTOR OF SECURITY, THE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS AND THE PORT

COMMANDER TO PERMIT AMERICANS TO BOARD SHIP WITH NO CUSTOMS
CHECKS AND MINIMUM PASSPORT FORMALITIES.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE TWO MEN SHOULD NOT GO UNRECOGNIZED,
AND HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONSIDER A FORMAL MESSAGE
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR SERVICES.
SMITH

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